



**US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Jeff Parish seeks permit for 1,300 wetland acres

Corps of Engineers will hold public meeting on January 14 in Gretna

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold a public meeting on an application by Jefferson Parish government for a permit involving an estimated 1,300 wetland acres on the West Bank near New Orleans.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., January 14, in Gretna, at the West Bank Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 200 Derbigny Street.

Jefferson Parish seeks a single permit instead of the usual process of seeking parcel-by-parcel permits under Sec. 404 of the Clean Water Act. The parish chose this method in order to implement its Master Land Use Plan for all affected property.

Because of the scale of the application, the Corps will prepare an environmental impact statement. This will take about 18 months. The application involves 3,735 undeveloped acres, which include about 1,300 acres of wetlands. The entire area is inside the hurricane protection levee and drained by pump.

The January 14 meeting will be a scoping meeting, meaning the public is invited to comment to help the environmental impact statement consider the broadest possible scope of issues, resources, impacts and alternatives. Participants are also encouraged to comment on the related Barataria Corridor Study. Participants will be asked to focus on two questions:

1. What are the most important issues resources and impacts that should be considered in the environmental impact statement?
2. Are there any other options to the tentative alternatives that should be considered in the environmental impact statement?

The area involved stretches south of Lapalco Boulevard in Marrero, and is bisected roughly north to south by Barataria Boulevard and the Lafitte-Larose Highway. The southernmost limit is a V-shaped hurricane protection levee.

The parish envisions the land being used for homes, stores and other businesses, playgrounds and parks, schools and an industrial park.

Alternatives to be considered at present include Section 404 permits on a parcel-by-parcel basis or a single Section 404 permit to accommodate all of the affected property. Other alternatives resulting from the scoping process will be considered.

Questions on the proposed study. Project Manager James Barlow, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-OD-SE, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La., 70160-0267. Tel. 504-862-2250. Fax 504-862-2289.

Questions on the environmental impact statement. **Biologist Michael Salyer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La., 70160-0267. Tel. 504-862-2237. Fax 504-862-2572.**